

Amendments to the Specification:

Replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025] Pilot hole 10 and through-hole 14 may be initially drilled on the same major surface 20 or different major surfaces 20 of target material 8. For example, formation of pilot hole 10 may be started on first major surface 20a of target material 8. Formation of through-hole 14, which has a greater diameter than that of pilot hole 10, can then be started on first major surface 20a of target material 8. Alternatively, formation of pilot hole 10 can be started on first major surface 20a of target material 8. Formation of through-hole 14, which has a greater diameter than that of pilot hole 10, can then be started on second major surface 20b of target material 8. As mentioned above, pilot hole 10 can be either a through-hole or a blind via.